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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Production of Fine Wire Mesh

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. In August 1948, the Russians ordered production of nickel wire mesh by the following firms in the Soviet Zone:

   a. Baderschneider und Lenzner in Zeulenroda, Thuringia, a privately owned plant.

   b. Oskar Lilhauer in Neustadt/Orla, Thuringia, a people's owned enterprise.

   c. Fritz Lose in Meiningen, Thuringia, under trusteeship.

   d. Beyer Brothers in Gräfenthal, Thuringia, a Land-owned enterprise.

   e. TEWA Raguhn in Raguhn, Anhalt, a people's owned plant.

   f. Paul Liring firm, Thuringia.

   Among these firms, TEWA Raguhn is an enterprise consisting of three former individual firms in Raguhn: Julius Pohle, Heerbrandt-Werke AG. and Seiden- und Feindrahtgaze Paul Krause. Shortly after production was started, the Paul Liring firm was withdrawn from the production program because it was unable to meet the specifications imposed by the Russians.

2. Those specifications were that the mesh be made with 10,000 openings per square cm. from nickel wire of 0.04 mm diameter.* 40,000 square meters were required. The order further specified that the required 40,000 square meters of mesh were to be produced and delivered in 1949. This order was fulfilled.**

3. For 1950, the Russians ordered production of 50,000 square meters of nickel wire mesh having 7,000 openings per square cm, and made of wire of 0.05 mm diameter. This order was given to only two of the firms mentioned in paragraph 1. Baderschneider und Lenzner was charged with production of 20,000 square meters, and Oskar Lilhauer was charged with production of 30,000 square meters, 20,000 of which the Lilhauer firm is to produce itself, and 10,000 of which will be distributed among the other firms named above (with the exception of Paul Liring). It is believed that the firms will be able to meet this order.

4. The quality of the nickel used could not be determined but it is believed that the wire consists of a nickel alloy. It is produced by the SAG Kupfer- und Messingwerke Hettstedt (former Mansfeld AG). The Hettstedt plant produces wire with a diameter of 0.8 mm. From there, the wire goes to the Vogel Cable Works in Berlin-Köpenick where the diameter is reduced to 0.04 mm. The wire is of bad quality. Whereas the wire formerly used in this production and stemming from the Sassenscheidt and Co. in Linsal, Westphalia, had an average of only 100 knots per piece of 250 square meters, the wire now used has between 6,000 and 10,000 knots in a piece the same size. The nickel used is believed to come from the Petsamo mines.

5. The weaving machines producing the mesh are manufactured by Emil Jaeger in Neustadt/Orla, Thuringia. The machines are driven by a 1 HP electromotor; they have a crankshaft drive with a double joint and work by raising and lowering the batten. These machines (as well as those ordered for shipment, as mentioned below, which are of the same type) are of outmoded construction (1928 to 1930). The hourly capacity of a machine is a piece of screen (10,000 openings per square cm) 1 m wide and 20 cm long. The Russians at first demanded 15 cm per hour, and later increased the order to 18 cm per hour. The maximum hourly output is 30 cm, but this can be obtained only with the very best wire material. Following is the number of machines in possession of the above-mentioned firms:

Baderschneider-und Lenzner:	12 machines
Lilhauer	12 machines at the beginning of 1948, later indreased to 18
Lose	2 machines
Beyer	1 machine
TLWA Raguhn	2 machines, probably more were added later
Liring	5 machines, two of which produce screen of half-meter width only

6. In mid-1948, the Jaeger firm obtained an order for 120 machines from the Russians. Sixty of these were actually produced and shipped to Russia where they reportedly went to a weaving factory in the vicinity of Moscow. Until the end of 1949, thirty-five more machines had been produced. Ten of these were shipped east but went only as far as Frankfurt (Oder) and then were turned back to Jaeger, the Russians having refused to accept them. At the end of February 1950, thirty-five machines were stored in Neustadt. Russian orders to distribute them to the above-mentioned firms had not been complied with. The head of the Jaeger firm, Emil Jaeger, fled to the West in the spring of 1948.

7. In the mesh with 10,000 openings, the width of an opening is 0.06 mm. The firms engaged in mesh production were provided with ocular micrometers from the Zeiss firm with which they were able to measure the width of the openings. In August 1949, the Russians announced that mesh with openings exceeding 0.09 mm in width would be turned back .

8. The final destination and purpose of the mesh are unknown but rumors have been circulated in the works engaged in its production to the effect that it is to be used for rockets as well as for atomic weapons and bacteriologics purposes.

9. The finished mesh of all the firms mentioned above, with the exception of Baderschneider-und Lenzner, is brought by truck to the Oskar Lilhauer plant. Thus, the entire production is concentrated at Oskar Lilhauer and Baderschneider- und Lenzner. From the 25th to the end of each month, the production is picked up by truck at these two firms and transported to Karlshorst whence it goes to Russia by plane. The screen is packed in zinc-plated boxes of about 1.15 m, 15 cm, 30 cm. The boxes bear Russian inscriptions.

10. The following Russians are or have been engaged in inspecting the mesh production: Chief Engineer (fnu) Angelov who returned to Russia in August 1949; his successor was Engineer (fnu) Karolov who was still there at the end of February 1950. Engineer Fedotov directs the picking up of the mesh and its transport to Karlshorst. The entire mesh production is under the direction of (fnu) Sobolov*** who is believed to be an adjutant to Lt. General Rudenko, Karlshorst. Sobolov is employed in the Optics and Precision-Mechanics section of the Karlshorst administration. This section handles the shipment of the finished mesh to Russia.

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25X1

11. In August 1948, the Lose firm was ordered to produce bronze mesh with 10,000 openings per square cm using wire of 0.04 mm diameter. Up to the end of 1949, the firm had produced 600 square meters of this mesh after which production was discontinued. The product went to Derutra. The Lilhauer firm, too, produced and is still engaged in the production of bronze mesh with wire of 0.04 mm diameter; the number of openings in this mesh varies between 9,000 and 10,000 per square cm. This mesh is furnished to Russian Field Post numbers. Lilhauer has also produced samples of bronze mesh with wire of 0.02 and 0.03 mm diameter and having openings from 18,000 to 22,000 per square cm. These samples were ordered by and delivered to the Optics and Precision-Mechanics section, Karlshorst.

25X1 Comment: Originally, wire of 0.03 mm diameter was ordered, but soon afterwards, the order was changed to wire of 0.04 mm diameter. Wire of 0.03 mm diameter which had already been furnished to the works had to be sent back and replaced by 0.04 mm wire. The mesh actually produced is made of 0.04 mm wire.

25X1

25X1 Comment: the actual amount of mesh delivered to the Russians exceeded the quantity ordered.

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